## Colorado State Conservation Board 2009 Matching Grants Project: Upper Huerfano Conservation District: Landowner Cost-Share Program

## What natural resource problem(s) did the project address?

Grazing lands and forest health, water conservation and wildlife have been identified through local public meetings as natural resource priorities in the Upper Huerfano Conservation District stakeholder meetings. The District had previously been offered cost-share funding to landowners for conservation practices to address these priorities - particularly to limited income, minority and small acreage landowners.

The District used Matching Grants funds to continue a landowner cost-share program for installation of conservation practices that improved rangeland, riparian or forest health for productivity and wildlife habitat or that conserved water and soil resources

## What was achieved?

- 1,270 acres benefited from conservation practices
- Eighteen applications received and thirteen projects funded.
- Landowners received overall 39% cost-share with maximum cap of \$3,000.
- Seven projects improved rangeland health, ecology and productivity through installation of watering facilities tanks, water pumps, ponds (2) spring development. These practices enable better livestock grazing management because stock are able to be more widely dispersed.
- One windbreak installed to reduce soil erosion and provide wildlife habitat 250ft trees planted, with drip irrigation and 400ft livestock exclusion fencing installed for maximizing tree survival.
- Six projects improved water use efficiency through improvements to irrigation systems, including seven structures installed and two gated pipe installations (1,870 feet)
- All 13 projects reduced soil erosion through less water erosion and better grazing practices estimated
   2,985 tons of soil conserved





By replacing failing and inefficient water irrigation structures - as shown n the left - water is conserved and sediment reduced (soil erosion).